

FOR WIRE TRANSMISSION 8:30 A.M. ET, Thursday, June 13, 2002

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES MAY 2002

The Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for May, adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$297.0 billion, a decrease of 0.9 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) from the previous month, but up 2.2 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) from May 2001. Total sales for the March through May period were up 3.3 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) from the same period a year ago. The March to April 2002 percent change was unrevised from 1.2 percent ($\pm 0.2\%$).

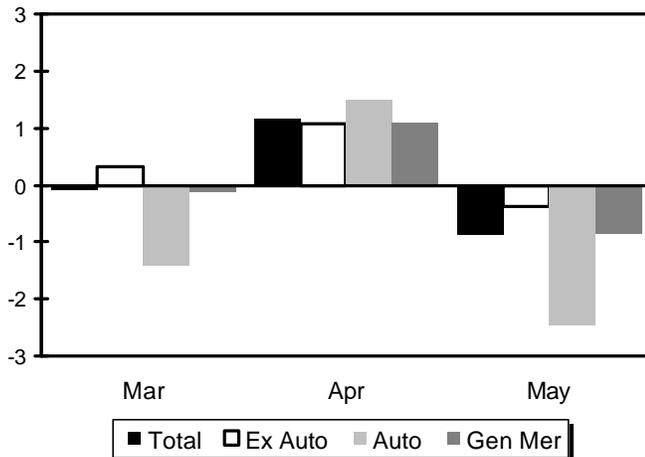
Retail trade sales were down 0.9 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) from April, but were 1.9 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) above last year. Electronics and appliance stores were up 10.9 percent ($\pm 2.3\%$) from last year and sales of health and personal care stores were up 9.0 percent ($\pm 2.0\%$) from May 2001. Sales of gasoline stations decreased 10.3 percent ($\pm 2.0\%$) from May a year ago.

The advance estimates are based on a small subsample of the Bureau's full retail and food services sample. Estimates from the advance and the subsequent full survey can differ because of the earlier reporting in the advance and because of sampling variability present in both surveys. For an explanation of the measures of sampling variability included in this report, please see the Reliability of Estimates section on the last page of this publication.

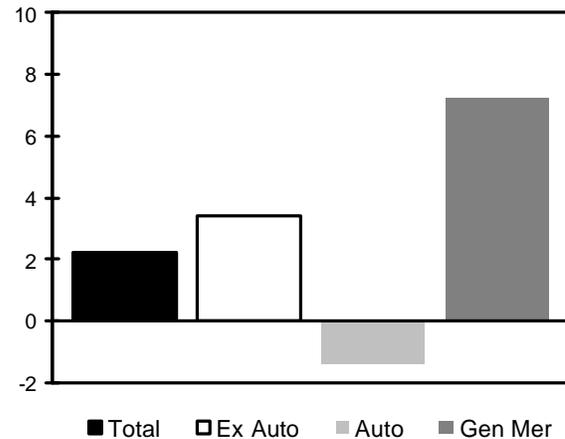
Percent Change in Retail and Food Services Sales

(Data adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)

From Previous Month



From Previous Year



The Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services for June is scheduled to be released July 12, 2002 at 8:30 a.m.

Address inquiries concerning this report to Scott Scheleur, Service Sector Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233. Telephone: 301-457-2713 or 301-457-2666.

This report is available the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's online Economic Bulletin Board. For information call 202-482-1986. The data are also available on the Internet - <http://www.census.gov/svsd/www/advtable.html>.

Table 1. Estimated Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business

(In Millions of Dollars and Annual Percent Change)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Not Adjusted							Adjusted ¹				
		5 Month Total		2002			2001		2002			2001	
		2002	% Chg. 2001	May ² (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May	Apr.	May ² (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May (r)	Apr. (r)
	Retail & food services, total	1,434,318	3.2	314,345	296,668	295,808	305,942	283,461	297,029	299,674	296,199	290,536	288,366
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1,077,558	3.6	237,466	221,513	221,815	227,915	212,950	227,114	227,980	225,560	219,629	218,664
	Retail	1,297,483	3.0	284,962	268,711	267,161	278,213	257,279	269,045	271,605	268,196	263,925	261,920
	GAFO³	(*)	(*)	(*)	72,069	76,089	72,838	69,088	(*)	79,603	79,188	74,729	74,617
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	356,760	2.2	76,879	75,155	73,993	78,027	70,511	69,915	71,694	70,639	70,907	69,702
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	326,830	2.2	70,394	68,822	67,963	71,486	64,421	63,820	65,545	64,542	64,811	63,594
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	57,504	57,367	59,798	53,729	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,333	6,030	6,541	6,090	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	37,588	4.5	8,025	7,451	7,816	7,567	6,967	8,009	7,935	7,935	7,582	7,540
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,183	4,509	4,116	3,855	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,268	3,307	3,451	3,112	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	35,511	8.1	7,234	6,637	7,348	6,506	6,087	7,844	7,679	7,714	7,076	7,066
44311, 13	Appl., T.V. & camera.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,676	5,055	4,578	4,178	(*)	5,547	5,507	5,031	4,998
44312	Computer & software stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,961	2,293	1,928	1,909	(*)	2,132	2,207	2,045	2,068
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	127,696	5.1	32,401	30,469	23,887	30,972	27,897	26,154	26,269	25,755	25,103	25,129
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	24,591	20,832	24,568	22,255	(*)	22,665	22,256	21,401	21,420
445	Food & beverage stores	195,315	2.9	41,890	37,866	40,692	40,564	37,853	40,182	39,993	40,128	39,288	39,057
4451	Grocery stores	176,622	2.7	37,684	34,134	36,766	36,594	34,206	36,130	35,931	36,080	35,391	35,228
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,431	2,489	2,546	2,295	(*)	2,654	2,639	2,526	2,505
446	Health & personal care stores	75,581	9.3	15,916	15,158	15,364	14,537	13,743	15,333	15,327	15,004	14,073	13,882
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	12,738	12,911	12,158	11,505	(*)	12,985	12,621	11,804	11,645
447	Gasoline stations	90,619	-9.3	20,586	19,606	18,493	22,614	20,548	18,991	19,606	18,775	21,174	20,756
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	64,305	3.1	14,418	13,374	14,132	13,939	13,477	14,339	14,747	14,673	14,023	14,169
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	800	833	870	823	(*)	889	889	893	872
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,916	3,010	2,853	2,900	(*)	2,881	2,875	2,674	2,726
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,441	4,746	4,554	4,537	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,806	1,928	1,899	1,941	(*)	1,852	1,829	1,814	1,831
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores	32,546	8.3	6,725	6,391	6,761	6,251	5,905	7,415	7,338	7,365	6,892	6,898
452	General merchandise stores	171,727	8.5	38,110	34,985	36,638	35,124	33,486	37,965	38,295	37,874	35,409	35,311
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	84,693	0.2	18,697	17,498	18,301	18,640	18,060	18,895	19,315	19,210	19,093	19,011
4521	Department stores (incl. L.D.) ⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	17,850	18,663	19,041	18,436	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4529	Other general merch. stores....	(*)	(*)	(*)	17,487	18,337	16,484	15,426	(*)	18,980	18,664	16,316	16,300
45291	Warehouse clubs & superstores	(*)	(*)	(*)	14,575	15,339	13,459	12,591	(*)	15,825	15,541	13,339	13,338
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,912	2,998	3,025	2,835	(*)	3,155	3,123	2,977	2,962
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	44,606	0.7	9,720	8,820	8,759	9,922	8,504	9,295	9,339	9,219	9,559	9,226
454	Nonstore retailers	65,229	-1.7	13,058	12,799	13,278	12,190	12,301	13,603	13,383	13,115	12,839	13,184
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	8,899	8,938	8,516	8,295	(*)	9,348	9,167	8,936	8,958
722	Food services & drinking places ...	136,835	5.7	29,383	27,957	28,647	27,729	26,182	27,984	28,069	28,003	26,611	26,446

(*) Advance estimates are not available from the subsample panel for these business classifications.

(NA) Not available. (a) Advance estimates. (p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Note: Totals include data for business classifications not shown separately.

- Data are concurrently adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available unadjusted estimates as input to the X-12-ARIMA program and the factors derived from the program are used in calculating all seasonally adjusted data shown in this publication. Factors and explanatory material are released on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>.
- Advance estimates are based on early reporting by a small subsample of the full survey panel. All other estimates are based on the full sample.
- GAFO represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (furniture & home furnishings (442), electronics & appliances(443), clothing & accessories(448), sporting goods, hobby, book, music (451), general merchandise(452), office supplies, stationery, and gift stores(4532)).
- Includes data for leased departments operated within department stores. Data for this line not included in broader kind-of-business totals.

Table 2. Percent Change in Estimated Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business

(Adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Percent Change ¹					
		May 2002 Advance from --		Apr. 2002 Preliminary from --		Mar. 2002 through May 2002 from --	
		Apr. 2002 (p)	May 2001 (r)	Mar. 2002 (r)	Apr. 2001 (r)	Dec. 2001 through Feb. 2002	Mar. 2001 through May 2001
	Retail & food services, total	-0.9	2.2	1.2	3.9	0.7	3.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	-0.4	3.4	1.1	4.3	1.6	3.9
	Retail	-0.9	1.9	1.3	3.7	0.8	3.0
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	-2.5	-1.4	1.5	2.9	-2.0	1.3
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	-2.6	-1.5	1.6	3.1	-2.1	1.4
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	0.9	5.6	0.0	5.2	1.2	5.4
443	Electronics & appliance stores	2.1	10.9	-0.5	8.7	0.3	9.5
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	-0.4	4.2	2.0	4.5	4.3	4.8
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.5	2.3	-0.3	2.4	-0.1	2.5
4451	Grocery stores	0.6	2.1	-0.4	2.0	-0.1	2.3
446	Health & personal care stores	0.0	9.0	2.2	10.4	2.4	9.0
447	Gasoline stations	-3.1	-10.3	4.4	-5.5	6.9	-7.3
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	-2.8	2.3	0.5	4.1	0.0	3.3
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores.....	1.0	7.6	-0.4	6.4	-0.3	7.0
452	General merchandise stores.....	-0.9	7.2	1.1	8.5	1.2	8.5
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	-2.2	-1.0	0.5	1.6	-0.9	0.8
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	-0.5	-2.8	1.3	1.2	-0.8	-1.4
454	Nonstore retailers	1.6	6.0	2.0	1.5	2.7	1.6
722	Food services & drinking places	-0.3	5.2	0.2	6.1	0.2	5.6

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

(1) Percent change rounded to nearest tenth.

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

Reliability of Estimates

The Advance estimates are based on a small subsample of the Bureau's full retail sales sample. Estimates from the Advance and the subsequent full survey can differ because of the earlier reporting in the Advance and because of sampling variability present in each survey. The margin of sampling error, as used on page 1, gives a range about the estimate which is a 90% confidence interval. If, for example, the trend estimate is +1.2% and the standard error is 0.9%, then the margin of sampling error is $\pm 1.65 \times 0.9\%$ or $\pm 1.5\%$, and the 90% confidence interval is -0.3% to +2.7%. If the interval contains 0, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. For monthly level, the coefficient of variation (CV) is given. The resulting confidence interval is the estimated value $\pm 1.65 \times CV \times$ (the estimated value). Estimates of sampling variability are given in Table 3.

errors. Such errors can occur because of nonresponse, insufficient coverage of the universe of retail businesses, and response errors. The restatement methodology may have introduced additional nonsampling error. Precautionary steps are taken to minimize nonsampling errors, but their magnitude is not directly measured.

Preliminary estimates for the current month and final estimates for the previous month based on the full sample will be published next month in the Monthly Retail Trade Report. This report will provide sales estimates in greater detail and additional measures of sampling variability. It will also present a description of revisions, the techniques used in developing the estimates, and an explanation of confidence intervals and sampling variability (Appendix B, Reliability of Estimates).

Estimates from the Advance and the full survey are subject to nonsampling

Table 3. Measures of Variability of and Revision to Advance Estimates for Level and Trend

NAICS Code	Kind of Business	Level of sales: Median CV ⁽²⁾ for Current Mo. (%)	Trend (percent change): Median standard error ⁽²⁾ for			Revision for month- to-month change ⁽¹⁾	
			Current Mo. to Previous Mo.	Current Qtr. to Previous Qtr.	Current Mo. to Current Mo. Last Yr.	Average revision	Median absolute revision
	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.2
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ..	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.2
	Retail	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.2
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.9	1.8	0.7	1.9	-0.1	0.8
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	2.1	1.9	0.7	2.1	-0.1	0.8
442	Furniture & home furn. stores.....	3.8	1.9	1.0	2.3	0.1	0.9
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.3	0.7	0.6	1.4	0.4	0.5
444	Building material & garden eq. &..						
	supplies dealers.....	1.7	0.9	0.5	2.0	-0.1	0.3
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2
4451	Grocery stores	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2
446	Health & personal care stores	2.2	0.6	0.6	1.2	-0.1	0.4
447	Gasoline stations	1.7	0.8	0.5	1.2	-0.1	1.0
448	Clothing & clothing accessories						
	stores	1.4	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.0	-0.1
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book &						
	music stores.....	2.5	2.5	1.4	3.0	0.2	1.3
452	General merchandise stores.....	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.)....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.3
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	3.4	3.4	1.5	3.7	0.5	1.1
454	Nonstore retailers	6.3	2.8	1.2	4.2	0.2	0.9
722	Food services & drinking places .	2.1	1.0	0.7	1.7	0.4	0.8



(1) These columns measure the difference between the estimates of trend for the same pair of data months, i.e. the difference between the Advance/Preliminary ratio and the Preliminary/Final ratio estimates. Revisions are based on estimates from the 12 most recent months.

(2) Medians are based on estimates from the 12 most recent months.